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Schwarzenegger Vetoes Labor Committee Bill to Track Offshoring

Sacramento – Governor Schwarzenegger today completed his wholesale rejection of a package of bills authored by legislative Democrats to address the increasing business practice of "offshoring" by vetoing AB 3021 by the Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment, chaired by Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood).

Assembly Bill 3021, sponsored by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, would have required California employers with 250 or more employees to annually report the number of employees and independent contractors maintained in California, other states and overseas.

"It's extremely disappointing that the Governor doesn't believe the state should track the jobs California employers are exporting," said Assemblyman Koretz. "Hampering the national debate on offshoring has been the fact that neither the state nor the federal government systematically tracks the number of jobs being sent overseas. This bill would have given us that crucial data and would have helped us continue the dialogue in an informed manner," he said.

In his very short veto announcement, Schwarzenegger said the bill "requires additional reporting requirements that are not necessary" and "creates burdensome new mandates."

"As this bill moved through the legislative process, I repeatedly emphasized that no matter on what side of the offshoring debate one stands, we ought to agree that the state should at least have the information to monitor this trend," said Assemblyman Koretz. "Unfortunately, this veto just ensures that the state will continue to bury its head in the sand," Koretz concluded.

"It's ironic that the Governor who constantly speaks about his goal of bringing 'jobs, jobs, jobs' to California won't even allow the state to collect data on how many jobs California employers are creating here versus sending overseas," said Angie Wei, Legislative Director for the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, the sponsor of the measure. "It's going to be extremely difficult for the Governor to live up to his promise if the state can't even track the numbers."

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